



SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

Telephone: Guildford 32454

BULLETIN

Number 221

June 1987

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SAS VISIT TO SOME BERKSHIRE VILLAGES

arranged by Mrs. Enid Butler

**Saturday, 22nd August**

- 8.15 a.m. Coach leaves Red Cross public house, Reigate, at the junction of West Street, High Street and Park Lane.
- 8.30 a.m. Dorking Halls.
- 9.00 a.m. Rear of Guildford railway station, Guildford Park Road. Proceed to "The Swan", Pangbourne, overlooking the Thames and weir for coffee.
- 11.00 a.m. (approx) The order and timing of the itinerary cannot be determined in advance, since we depend on no special services at the churches. The architecture and special interests of the churches differ widely; other points of interest in each village will be indicated. Picnic lunch is strongly recommended. A suitable stop will be included for drinks at a pub.

**Ashampstead** — St. Clement's, an early 13th century church with a minstrels gallery and important wall paintings of 1230-40.

**Aldworth** — St. Mary's, a 14th century, or earlier, church which houses one of the county's richest collections of outsized effigies — eight monuments to the De La Beche family. The former 1000 year old yew tree is still of interest.

**East Hagbourne** — includes three village crosses, a place of sanctuary and timber framed houses. The 13th and 15th century church of St. Andrew has a wealth of interest — a unique 14th century roundel of stained glass, grotesques, non-naturalistic heads, a tricephalos and a sanctuary knocker.

**Blewbury** — a village of considerable interest, thatched cob walls and a long avenue of same. St. Nicholas' church, Decorated and Perpendicular with some early Norman windows, 13th century ironwork, brasses of the 14th century and later and some 14th century stained glass. Nearby is Blewbury Hill Iron Age fort. The prehistory and Saxon history of the area will be discussed.

5.00 p.m. Return to "The Swan" at Pangbourne for afternoon tea  
(approx) (please state if not required).

6.00 p.m. Return to Surrey.  
(approx)

**Tickets:** Members £9.00, non-members £9.10, students and children half price. The cost includes administration, coach, gratuity, morning coffee and afternoon tea. Please send cheque, with s.a.e. to Mrs. Jean West, 123 Ewell By Pass, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2PX (Tel: 01-393 8970) not later than 5th August to enable final arrangements to be completed.

### **Saturday, 19th September**

#### **COACH OUTING TO 'THE LUNT', COVENTRY**

(Organised by Surrey Roman Villa Group)

Advance notice is given of a coach trip to visit the partially restored Roman Fort and the Museum of the Roman Army at Baginton, Coventry. The coach will leave Dorking Halls at 8.30 a.m. with a pick-up at Guildford Railway Station at 9.00 a.m.

Details are not yet available, but anyone wishing to receive details when arrangements have been made, please telephone Mr. Leslie Le Mottee on Ashtead 74107.

A further notice will appear in the July/August *Bulletin*.

### **Council News**

At the meeting of Council held on January 30th the draft budget for 1987/88 was adopted. Dr. D. G. Bird, Miss J. M. Carter, Mr. K. D. Graham, Mr. B. F. J. Pardoe, Mrs. R. Taylor and Mr. R. J. Webber were co-opted as members of Council for one year under Article 21a of the Articles of Association of the Society.

### **Advance Notice**

The 1987 Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on November 28th in Lecture Theatre G of the University of Surrey, Guildford. The AGM will be followed by the Annual Lecture, to be given by Mr. K. W. E. Gravett, FSA, Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

### **Young Archaeologists Club**

Arrangements for the formation of this Club, to be managed jointly by the Society and Guildford Museum, are progressing well. The Club will meet on one Saturday each month, beginning in the autumn. Ms. Gwyneth Price has joined the Castle Arch staff as the Society's organiser, and we are very pleased to welcome her. Full details of the Club will be published in a later issue of the *Bulletin*, and all enquiries should be directed to Ms. Price at Castle Arch.

### **Society Publications — Research Volume 10**

All fully paid-up members of the Society should now have received *Research Volume 10*: Petters Sports Field, Egham. Will any member who has not received a copy please inform Mrs. Susan Janaway at Castle Arch (Guildford 32454) as soon as possible.

### **Hand Delivery of Publications**

The next Society publication to be delivered by hand to members within the county will be *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, hopefully in the late summer. Mr. David Webb has very kindly agreed to take over the organisation of the hand delivery, and volunteers should contact him on

Dorking 889871 or at 'Springs', Rookery Drive, Westcott, Dorking RH4 3LQ. Members who would like to help in any way, especially with transporting publications to the deliverers from Westcott, are asked to contact Mr. Webb or Mrs. Susan Janaway at Castle Arch.

### **Wanborough Excavation**

A reception followed by a lecture on the excavation of the Romano-British temple at Wanborough was held on March 12th as a small token of the Society's gratitude to those who had made the excavation possible. Before an invited audience of 220 Lady Hanworth, President of the Society, outlined the reasons for the excavation, described the work of fund-raising and organising the excavation, and thanked all those who helped in their various ways. Dr. David Bird then gave a very enjoyable and much appreciated illustrated account of the excavation. Thanks are due to Matthew Alexander for the manufacture and display of the priestly headdress and sceptre, to Glenys Crocker for preparing the display boards and to Audrey Monk for her assistance with fund-raising and administration.

### **Archaeology and Metal Detectors: Discussion Meeting**

A meeting took place in Dorking on 4th April, 1987, between representatives from most of the Surrey based metal detector clubs and archaeological organisations and museums. A very useful discussion took place and personal contacts were made. It is hoped that further progress will be made in the near future towards a better understanding between detectorists, archaeologists and museum curators in Surrey. The meeting was jointly chaired by Mr. Tony Gregory of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Mr. David Wood of Newbury, chairman of the Southern Federation of Metal Detectorists.

### **Spinning, Dyeing and Weaving**

Dr. Bridget Dunseith has contacted the Society offering an illustrated lecture on topics connected with the research for her Doctorate, namely *Spinning, Dyeing and Weaving and related crafts in the Graeco-Roman world*. Interested local societies should contact Dr. Dunseith at Little Snoxhall, Knowle Lane, Cranleigh GU6 8JW or telephone Cranleigh 274260.

### **New Members**

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

*From February 1987* — Mrs. M. L. Smith, Bush Cottage, Mayford Green, Woking GU22 0NL; A. R. Wardle, 47 Lane End Drive, Knaphill, Woking GU21 2QQ; Mrs. E. Rich, Shere Museum, The Malthouse, Shere, Guildford GU5 9HS; Miss J. E. Van der Lande, Folly Farm, South Holmwood, Dorking RH5 4NH.

*From March, 1987* — Dr. Barry Squire, Sayers Croft Rural Centre, Ewhurst, Cranleigh GU6 7SS; Miss J. E. Lunn, 23 Dartnell Park Road, West Byfleet KT14 6PN; J. Kelleher, 230 Mitcham Road, London SW17 9NN; Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Brash, Bindon Cottage, Headley Down, Hants GU35 8JQ; P. Hinton, 68 Stillness Road, Honor Oak, London SE23 1NF; Wealden Iron Research Group, c/o R. Houghton, 17 Woodland Close, Crawley Down, Sussex RH10 4JZ; Miss A. J. Sharpe, High House, Wych Hill Lane, Woking GU22 0HA; F. J. Waller, 49 Broad Lane, Hampton, Middx. TW12 3AX.

### **Obituary — Miss Sheila Richardson**

Many members will be saddened to hear of the death of Sheila Richardson on Thursday, 2nd April, 1987. Sheila was particularly well known to those who helped in the excavation of Nonsuch Palace, Ewell, and the subsequent excavation at Oatlands Palace, Weybridge.

On the Oatlands "dig", Sheila was "Finds Supervisor", a task she continued to do for nearly twenty years for, as Secretary of Oatlands Palace Excavations Committee (a post ill-health forced her to give up three years ago), she not only cared for the specimens from Oatlands in the Weybridge Museum store, but sorted, catalogued and recorded them so that the experts who have undertaken various sections of the Oatlands final report, (due to be published by the Surrey Archaeological Society) found properly annotated notes and records on all the specimens, thus making their task much easier. Sheila, herself, has written part of the report, which the Oatlands Palace Excavation Committee will now dedicate to her memory.

Sheila always considered herself a very amateur archaeologist, and deferred in all things to the professionals; yet her own historical knowledge was extensive and she was always eager to learn.

Sheila Richardson was born in Walton in the 1920s, growing up and living there all her life. In the 1939/45 War she served in the WRNS. She studied horticulture in the late 1940s and worked in this field, becoming a professional gardener and lecturer. In addition to her archaeological work, she was a community-spirited person, raising money for Walton Hospital, the Esher Hospice and the Lifeboat Association among the many organisations she supported.

She will be sadly missed by a great many who knew and loved her.

Avril Lansdell

Curator — Weybridge Museum

Secretary — Oatlands Palace Excavations Committee

## **EXCAVATION NOTICE, REPORT, ETC.**

### **South Farm, Lightwater**

Excavations on the Romano-British and probable early Medieval occupation site will continue from 1st to 30th of August 1987, directed by G. H. Cole for Surrey Heath Group of Surrey Archaeological Society.

A public viewing and interpretation centre will be open daily during the excavation period. Volunteers should write to: G. H. Cole, Archaeological Research Centre, 63 High Street, Bagshot, Surrey for further information.

### **Johnson and Clark site, Staines**

The redevelopment of the 1956 department store by Crowngap Ltd. in 1986/7 entailed the destruction of over 5,000 sq. metres of archaeological deposits between the High Street, Thames Street and Penny Lane. A donation and other resources provided by the developers enabled excavations and site-watching by SCC staff before and during site clearance, and this work was undertaken with a Community Task Force team. Nick Shepherd directed the excavation of three trenches and the present author excavated another, linking, trench. Together these provided a sample of the deposits through the length of the backlands zone of the site. It was not possible to conduct a formal excavation along the High Street frontage since the department store remained standing until May 1986, and

development work thereafter could not be delayed. Site-watching during machine clearance, however, indicated that much of this zone had been destroyed by 19th century cellars and the foundations of the modern buildings. The topography of the rest of the site can be divided into three zones: the Penny Lane area, the backlands, and the river frontage of an inlet of the Thames that lay to the south. Much of the stratigraphy of the backlands had previously been destroyed along with the High Street zone except in the east next to Thames Street where the four trenches had been fortuitously excavated. Much of our later effort was concentrated in the riverbank and off-shore areas, and the southern end of Penny Lane. From June to September the whole site was 'basemented-out' and archaeological work was directed towards recording sections and excavating samples of stratigraphy wherever possible.

**Prehistoric** — No deposits were found to have survived, although a few worked flints and sherds were recovered from later deposits.

**Roman** — No buildings seemed to have survived destruction by later foundations although two or more had probably existed in the NE of the site, perhaps adjacent to the main road (thought to lie beneath High Street). The evidence for these was found in the backfills of backland pits in Trenches 1 to 4. The earliest of these, of timber and daub construction, had been destroyed by fire in the late 1st or early 2nd century. Subsequent buildings were also of timber construction but at least some rooms had painted plaster walls, *opus signinum* flooring, black and white tessellated flooring and hypocaust system(s). These buildings were demolished in the late 2nd century. To the south the early Roman riverbank was swept away by a series of floods in the late 2nd/early 3rd century, and the new bank eventually stabilised along a diagonal through the middle of the development site. No waterfront facilities (for mooring, unloading etc.) were found except for an inclined ramp (slipway?). Two wells of late 1st and mid 2nd century date were examined close to the contemporary riverbank.

**Saxon** — Two parallel ditches, presumably to be the same as those found further east in the southern backlands of Staines (Jones (1982) *Trans. L.A.M.A.S.* 33, 186) were found in the eastern half of the site and in a similar position, immediately landward of the contemporary riverbank. Further west their courses had been destroyed by medieval flood erosion. Evidence that the initial deposition of the 'blackearth' that blankets all the Roman stratigraphy in Staines began in the Saxon period came from a controlled excavation of the deposit in a 90 sq. metre sample (Trench 4). The lowest spit contained a stamped sherd of late 5th or early 6th century type, and several other sandy and grass-tempered sherds. No other Saxon contexts were found.

**Medieval** — Most of the area of the excavated trenches and that of the backlands zone had been used for pit-digging. The only buildings that escaped later destruction were those of timber with clay floors that bounded Penny Lane, a curious multiple beam-slotted building set at right angles and adjacent to the riverbank in Trench 4, and an even more curious building with deep multi-bayed flint and mortar foundations in the north of the site. Penny Lane was found to have been laid out in the early 13th century over the line of a late 12th century ditch that probably extended from the High Street to the Thames. Buildings were constructed on either side of the lane at this time in rows that extended almost to the riverbank. No evidence for waterfront activities was found here although further east in Trench 4 the multiple-beamed building and its adjacent packed gravel surfaces (a 'hard?') of 13/14th century date, may have been

used for wharfage. The northern, massively-founded building was oriented at right angles to the High Street, cut through late 12th century pits and was apparently out of use well before the 15th century. It is possible that it was the prison that existed in the town in 1274. This may well have been close to the market and bridge in the heart of the town. Medieval finds of especial interest include several leather soles and a 13th century iron lancehead.

**Post-medieval** — The southern third of the site continued to be a zone of occasionally submerged mud-flats until the early 19th century. Very few artefacts or features of 15th to 18th century date were found to the north of this, partly because buildings that must have stood on the High Street had been destroyed by later foundations. Perhaps the most interesting feature was a pit that contained a complete ladies, high-heeled, shoe of a type current in the early years of the 17th century, as well as hob-nailed soles that may have been from boots of military issue. Soldiers of both sides are known to have been billeted in Staines at different times during the Civil War.

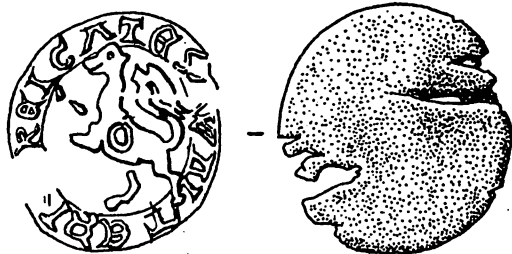
Phil Jones  
Field Officer, SCC Planning Dept  
(Archaeol. & Conservation)

### Seal Die of Walter of Reigate from London

This note is prompted by a seal exhibited at the recent 'Capital Gains' exhibition at the Museum of London. The seal is one of 32 published by Brian Spencer (in *Antiquaries Journal* LXIV (1984) p 376-381) which were recovered from sites mostly bordering the Thames. This note is derived from that report with acknowledgements to Mr. Spencer).

The seal, shown here at full size, is of tin and bears the legend S'WALTERI (DE) REIGATE around a lion rampant. It was found during excavations by the Dept. of Urban Archaeology at the Swan Lane site in deposits dated to about 1270. The die has been mutilated by being hacked with a sharp implement before being thrown away by Walter or his heirs. Walter of Reigate is otherwise unrecorded.

David Williams



### Help! A Plea from Guildford Museum

Guildford Museum is currently recataloguing its archaeological collections. During this work we have come across four large bags of vessel glass and window glass, probably 15th or 16th century marked "B.L.X" and "B.L. VII". There is no other documentation associated with these finds. Does anyone know what the site code "B.L." stands for? If so, please contact Julia Arthur, Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX (0483) 505050 Ext. 3542.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

**Lingfield Heritage.** An introduction to the whole of the historic parish which includes Haxted, Dormansland and Baldwins Hill. The book contains a short description of all known buildings and features of historical and archaeological interest, listed or otherwise.

Copies can be obtained from P. J. Gray, "Doggetts", Blackberry Lane, Lingfield RH7 6HH. Price £2.30, post free.

**Monumental Inscriptions, Walton-on-Thames Cemetery.** Over 800 inscriptions and 1800 names recorded by J. W. L. Forge and J. S. L. Pulford. Walton & Weybridge Local History Society Paper No. 24. Copies available from Mrs. M. Forge, 12c, Bowes Road, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 3HS. Price £3.25 plus 30p postage.

**British Archaeology Monthly.** A new journal aiming to provide a comprehensive picture of what is happening in archaeology in the British Isles. It is intended to devote a large part of the magazine's space to work carried out by local groups and societies. Societies are invited to submit articles for publication. Further information available from M/s J. Furniss, Editorial Co-ordinator, Bell House, 3a, New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2DX. Telephone Ledbury (0531) 5666/7.

## COURSES

### **Butser Ancient Farm Project Trust Courses**

In addition to the week-long courses listed in the March issue of the *Bulletin*, the Trust is also running shorter courses during the Summer:

June 13/14th. Wool Weekend. Production, spinning, weaving and dyeing.

June 12/13/14th. Art Weekend. Painting and drawing reconstructions.

July 18th. Day school on the flora and archaeology of Butser Hill.

Full details of the courses can be obtained from Dr. P. J. Reynolds, Director, Nexus House, Gravel Hill, Horndean, Hants.

### **Castle Excavation: 17th–21st August or 24th–28th August**

Non-residential excavation training courses at Lewes Castle, Sussex. The courses will include excavation techniques, recording plans and sections, surveying, photography, sieving and flotation, sampling and finds processing. Course director: Dr. P. L. Drewett.

Cost per five day course: £40 (members of the Sussex Archaeological Society) or £50 (non-members). The course fee is payable in advance and cheques should be made payable to "University College, London".

Applications to Christine Crickmore, Field Archaeology Unit, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY.

## MISCELLANY

### **Saturday, 6th June–Saturday, 5th July**

**ROMAN COTSWOLD FESTIVAL.** A variety of events including open days at Littledean Hall Roman Temple, 30th June, Frocester, 27/28th June; Woodchester Mosaic exhibition at Stroud; chariot racing at Cirencester on 5th July.

### **Saturday 13th June**

**ROMAN POTTERY WORKSHOP** arranged by Sussex Archaeological Society at Fishbourne Roman Palace, near Chichester. Tickets (£7.50) and further information from David Rudkin, The Director, Fishbourne Roman Palace, Chichester PO19 3QR.

### **Friday 26th June, 8 p.m.**

**CONSERVATION AREAS OF WANDSWORTH.** Talk by Jack Warsaw to Wandsworth H.S. at Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

### **Sunday 28th June**

**FIELD MEETING, WEST SUSSEX,** including visit to Boxgrove excavations, arranged by Croydon N.H.S.S. Details available from *Bulletin* Editor.

### **Saturday 5th September–Saturday 12th September**

**ANCIENT MOSAICS.** 5th International Colloquium, Bath. Registrations are invited for this colloquium to be held in the Banqueting Hall, Guildhall, Bath. More than 60 papers on mosaics of the Roman, Byzantine and medieval periods will be presented. At the Victoria Art Gallery, in association with the colloquium, there is to be an exhibition showing the history of mosaic recording in Britain. Registration fee: £30 (cheques payable to 5th International Mosaic Coll.) and further details: The Secretary, Mr. P. Johnson, Roman Research Trust, Littlecote Roman Villa, Nr. Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0SU.

### ***Bulletin* issues**

Keen-eyed members will have noticed that the last *Bulletin*, for April/May was mis-numbered. Members and Librarians who file copies, please note that there is no *Bulletin* No. 219.

Copy for the July/August issue (No. 222) is required by the Editor by Saturday 6th June. For the September issue copy must be with the Editor by Saturday 8th August.

## STOP PRESS

### **Godalming Relief Road**

Work on the road is due to start in August. Anyone interested in assisting with preliminary excavation and survey work should give their name and address to the Society's headquarters at Castle Arch, Guildford (Tel. Guildford 32454) or to David Graham on Bordon 2761. Details of excavation will be sent when available.